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Script #1006
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UCP

One Of Us Is Lying

“One Of Us Is Dancing!”

Written By:

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Directed By:

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White Production Draft:

4/29/21

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One Of Us Is Lying

CAST LIST

Addy Prentiss
Cooper Clay
Bronwyn Rojas
Nate Macauley
Jake Riordan
Janae Matthews
Simon Kelleher
Maeve Rojas
Keely Moore
Kris Greene
TJ Forrester
Vanessa
Ms. Avery
~~Detective Gould~~
Detective Wheeler
~~Horny Bro~~
~~Gym Teacher~~
Football Coach
DJ
Security Guard #1
~~Security Guard #2 (V.O.)~~

One Of Us Is Lying

SET LIST

INTERIORS

Bayview High School

- Another Hallway
- Art Room
- Atrium/Entrance *
- ~~Faculty Bathroom~~
- Stairwell
- Foyer
- Girl's Locker Room
- Gymnasium
 - Dance Floor
- Hallway
- Hallways
- Library
- Principal Gupta's Office
- ~~Upstairs Hallways~~

Jake's Beach House

- Hallway
- ~~Kitchen~~

Janae's House

- Bedroom

EXTERIORS

Bayview High School

- Entrance
- Parking Lot
- Quad
- Rooftop

Jake's Beach House

Fair

One Of Us Is Lying

Revision History

DATE	REVISION	REVISED PAGES
4/29/21	White Production Draft	ALL

Major Revisions: Vanessa no longer has a Tiara
Rose is now MALLORY

TEASER

1

INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - NIGHT (N17)

1

We're CLOSE on a pair of painted lips as they speak --

KEELY

They say even the bravest wildcat
hunts with their head down. Stalking
its prey. Killing its quarry when
they're at their most vulnerable...

We PULL OUT to reveal KEELY on stage, draped in chic party dress that's sexy yet suitable for a student body president. A banner festooned behind her reads "BAYVIEW HIGH'S HOMECOMING DANCE: AN EVENING UNDER THE STARS" and the gym is decorated with star projector lights, and LED cotton clouds.

KEELY (CONT'D)

Out there on the field last night,
our Wildcats didn't just murder Dana
Point, WE SLAUGHTERED THEM!

Before her, a throng of STUDENTS clad in sequins and polyester. A few clap awkwardly -- murder references at Bayview can be triggering. We clock COOPER off to the side, looking sharp in a suit and tie. He locks eyes with Keely, brow raised like *really?* Keely realizes that was not a win.

KEELY (CONT'D)

Too soon? Yeah, I get it.

(a beat)

The last few weeks have been a
nightmare, guys. But even though a
police investigation hangs over us
like a dark cloud, we will be the
disco mirrorball that shines the way
forward. Who's ready to party?

The crowd ERUPTS in CHEERS. Music PUMPS through the best sound system a public high school can afford, and it's clear the students are ready to forget that the suspects of an unsolved murder walk among them. At least most of them are.

KEELY (CONT'D)

And if you forgot to vote for our
Homecoming King and Queen, well, too
late! Results are being tallied now!

(CONTINUED)

ANGLE ON JANAE, in a black lace dress, rolling her eyes. She removes a flask from her purse and slyly pours it into her drink, just out of sight of MS. AVERY, chaperoning for the night. Keely passes her, and also a seemingly bored and alone TJ, and goes to Cooper, who is staring out at the dance floor, lost in thought.

KEELY (CONT'D)
Any word from Addy?

COOPER
Still nothing.

KEELY
I know she's not on squad anymore,
but skipping the Homecoming game is
not like her. I'm worried.

Cooper's eyes are cloudy with unease, a mix of concern and guilt for ghosting Addy (105). He takes out his phone again, and walks towards the exit through the dance floor, past the WILDCAT MASCOT doing the *electro shuffle*, and outside onto --

2 **EXT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS** 2

The red carpet, canopied by arches of light and starburst chandeliers. COUPLES and GROUPS of friends take photos. Cooper checks that Addy hasn't replied to his last message ("You ok?") and then sees, at the end of the tunnel, a very out of place BRONWYN. They look at each other from a distance, tension between them still clearly high.

BRONWYN
Again, why are we doing this?

Reveal MAEVE, stunning in her Homecoming finest.

MAEVE
Because Mom and Dad think you look
less like a murderer all dressed up
and smiling for the camera.

Bronwyn looks around, students staring and whispering.

BRONWYN
They overestimate the power of this
dress.

MAEVE
It's your senior year. Don't you
want a few good memories before the
inevitable court proceedings?
(off Bronwyn, pissed off)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MAEVE (CONT'D)

Ok, no more jokes about you
potentially going to prison.
(holds out phone; teasing)
Say *Not Guilty*!

Maeve snaps a photo. Bronwyn scowls, and we fly past to -- A
HUGE STRETCH HUMMER LIMO pulling in front of them. The doors
open to reveal JAKE and VANESSA. Cooper waves at them.

VANESSA

Time to party, losers.
(following Jake's gaze)
Bronwyn Rojas with a little sister
sympathy date. What a stunt queen.

JAKE

Everywhere these people go turns
into a circus. At least Addy had the
decency to skip the game last night.

The THROATY GROWL of a motorcycle startles them as it barrels
past. Two helmeted RIDERS come to a screeching halt. Bronwyn
stops Maeve as they turn to look --

NATE removes his helmet and locks eyes with Bronwyn. Her lips
twitch in an almost smile. She doesn't break eye contact but--

MAEVE

Wait, is that...

The mysterious PASSENGER climbs off the bike, un-hikes her
satin, midi-length bustier dress, and lifts the helmet to
reveal... it's ADDY. Holy shit. Addy sees Cooper, catches
Bronwyn's eyes, tosses the helmet to Nate, and marches
directly toward her -- but she realizes people are watching.
She stops by her side and without looking at her, whispers --

ADDY

Next time I text the group, don't
you dare leave me on read.

Bronwyn searches for words as Nate approaches, in a vintage
three piece open-collar suit like *Shawn Mendes* (thanks
Goodwill). Nate looks at her wearily.

NATE

(hushed)
Seriously though, we need to talk.

Off Bronwyn, flabbergast, looking at a very confused Cooper,
we cut to **TITLE CARD:**

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

3

INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - LIBRARY - NIGHT

3

Cooper SLIPS THROUGH the door to find Bronwyn, Nate, and Addy by the stacks, hidden in the shadows.

COOPER

Wanna tell me why we're meeting at the literal scene of the crime?

ADDY

Someone was at the abandoned theater last night. Stalking me.

COOPER

They followed you to Murder club?

NATE

We really need a rebranding.

ADDY

If Nate hadn't shown up I'd be taking selfies with Jesus right now.

NATE

I wanted to hear what she had to say. You guys might want to hear it too.

Bronwyn and Cooper look at Addy.

ADDY

I figured out who posted our secrets to About That.

BRONWYN

You WHAT!?

COOPER

Who?

Addy looks at the person who just showed up at the door, phone in hand.

ADDY

Right on cue.

Janae comes in, she takes in the group of them, huddled together and staring at her. As she takes a deep breath, feeling like the odd man out:

SIMON (PRE-LAP)

Alone for Homecoming. We really are pathetic--

4

INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - DAY - FLASHBACK(FBD1)

SIMON and Janae, sophomore and freshman, sit in the back of the bleachers watching the HOMECOMING PEP RALLY below. On stage, CHEERLEADERS flank the FOOTBALL COACH who is at the mic --

FOOTBALL COACH

And now, a few words from last year's civic athlete, Jake Riordan!

Big applause as Jake takes the stage.

JANAE

Correction, pathetic would be peaking in high school.

SIMON

The privileged don't peak. Even without the NFL he's still rich and fake enough to end up with a *Real Housewife* on his arm, and a job in Washington representing California's 48th congressional district.

On stage, Jake begins his speech --

JAKE

I just wanna say that none of this would have been possible without my own personal cheerleader, Addy! Get over here, babe!

We find Addy among the cheerleaders in full uniform. She blushes and prances over. Jake kisses her on the cheek.

JANAE

Gross. Weren't you friends with this guy?

SIMON

To be fair, he was always an asshole. But then one summer he got jacked, and I draw the line at an asshole with abs.

JANAE

You drew the line?

Simon gives Janae a look.

JAKE

What does it mean to be a civic athlete? Let's talk about that.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

4

CONTINUED:

4

JAKE (CONT'D)

What does it take to be a role model? Let's talk about that too.

SIMON

(scoffs)

He also thought it was okay to catfish the family au pair because she wouldn't sleep with him. Let's talk about that.

(a beat)

We really need some kind of public database for these charlatans. A way to expose the entitled assholes and show the world what they really are.

JANAE

There should be an app for that.

SIMON

Now there's an idea.

(then)

You know what, we should go to Homecoming. Together. I'm serious. We might get some inspiration for this app idea of yours.

Simon smirks, and off Janae's wry smile we are --

COOPER (PRE-LAP)

You little copycat, gossip-girl-wannabe, asshole.

5

INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - LIBRARY - NIGHT - PRESENT (N17) 5

Janae takes in stride everyone's hostility, and tries to deflect with a bit of humor.

JANAE

Gossip girl? Wow.

(a beat)

You are gay.

BRONWYN

And you fucking ruined our lives. Why should we listen to you?

ADDY

Just hear her out, please?

(to Janae)

Tell them about the messages.

(CONTINUED)

JANAE

I posted your secrets, but that's it. Someone locked me out and changed the password before the picture of your meeting was posted.

(to Bronwyn)

And the video of you.

(back to all)

Last time I tried to log in all I got was a threatening message. It just popped up and then disappeared. Like a Snap.

COOPER

What did it say?

JANAE

"Simon says, back off."

The gang share a grim look. Cooper then sees a SHADOW from the corner of his eye. Someone in the hallway, watching them? He turns around, can't see a thing. Did he imagine it?

BRONWYN

But you have no proof.

Cooper opens the door slowly and takes a peek outside. The dark hallway seems empty. But he's already on edge.

COOPER

Do you guys have any idea what would happen if they catch us meeting in secret *again*? How it will look in the eyes of the police, who we all know are *dying* to make an arrest?

ADDY

Wait! Janae has a theory about who might be stalking us... Who might have killed Simon!

BRONWYN

Of course she does.

ADDY

It's TJ!

COOPER

What?

JANAE

The day Simon was murdered I saw TJ grab him in the hall. There was an argument.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JANAE (CONT'D)

It's how Simon got detention. But it looked like TJ threatened him. I didn't know what to think, I was sure one of you--

ADDY

What if TJ knew Simon was going to post our secret? He told me had done things he wasn't proud of to keep it from coming out--

BRONWYN

Of course you think someone would kill for you--

ADDY

Well, someone was stalking *me* last night. And TJ keeps messaging *me* and is obsessed with *me*. And right after I broke his heart and got him suspended, someone revoked Janae's access to About That, followed the four of us and posted pictures of our meeting spot. So maybe you could just, you know, *believe women*.

BRONWYN

Seriously?

COOPER

TJ is about the chilliest guy I've ever met. I really don't see it.

BRONWYN

And they don't teach hacking on the surf team.

NATE

His dad *does* run the largest cybersecurity firm in Orange County. Is it possible he's smarter than he looks? And sounds? And acts?

BRONWYN

This is ridiculous.

ADDY

If it's so ridiculous Nate would be crossing the border into Tijuana right now. Instead he's here helping me with my plan.

(CONTINUED)

BRONWYN

(gutted, to Nate)

Is that true?

ADDY

You should see his passport picture.
He still has it in his motorcycle.

NATE

Didn't think you cared where I
parked my bike.

COOPER

Not this shit again.

(to Addy)

What do you mean, "your plan?"

ADDY

TJ's here tonight. I can get close,
maybe tug on his heartstrings, it
might be enough of a distraction for
Nate to slip by and swipe his phone.
Then we use his location data to
retrace his steps. See if he's the
one who's been stalking us.

COOPER

(shakes his head)

Let's say you're right about TJ.
That means he's a psycho stalker
killer who potentially hates you.
You shouldn't be tugging on anything
of his.

NATE

He's actually right.

COOPER

(shocked)

Thanks?

NATE

You should do it.

COOPER

What?

NATE

You're his friend.

(tossing Cooper his flask)

Offer him a drink. Make him use his
phone, check the code.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

NATE (CONT'D)

After he's had a few I'll bump into him and grab his phone. He'll be too drunk to notice.

COOPER

Last time I drank, I came out to someone!

BRONWYN

So say we do this. How are you going to get the data off TJ's phone?

ADDY

I heard your sister was good with computers and stuff?

Bronwyn gives Nate a look. He shrugs while he starts to play nervously with his tie.

BRONWYN

You are insane.

(points at Janae)

Don't you see she's pointing at someone else because she doesn't want us to focus on her?

COOPER

That's normally your thing.

BRONWYN

What are you saying?

ADDY

We all saw the video. You stole the laptop. Clearly you didn't want your secret out.

BRONWYN

Neither did any of you! And I didn't tell you about the laptop because I didn't want to implicate you.

(to Addy)

But you turned around and ratted me out the first chance you got.

ADDY

Because they kept pressuring me about Cooper! And his "violent" past...

BRONWYN

What? So there was something...

(CONTINUED)

COOPER

It doesn't matter.

NATE

It matters if you're being all high and mighty.

COOPER

Well, at least I didn't fake my mom's death.

ADDY

Ok, enough! There's someone out there who is trying to frame us or even kill us... Can we just work together for one night?

BRONWYN

Fine. But my sister won't be involved. And just so you know--
(pointing at Janae)
I don't trust her. I barely trust you.

Bronwyn, Nate, Addy and Cooper filter out of the room. We linger on Janae, feeling guilty and alone.

6

INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - NIGHT

6

Janae leaves the library, noticing Bronwyn giving her the evil eye as she walks away. Bronwyn eyes Nate. He looks good in his suit, and Bronwyn can't help but notice... no matter how upset she is with him.

BRONWYN

You look--

NATE

Ridiculous. I know.

BRONWYN

That's not at all what I was going to say.

He smiles, is she offering an olive branch?

NATE

That's not how I wanted you to find out I was leaving, by the way.

BRONWYN

(back to business)
Whatever.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

6

CONTINUED:

6

BRONWYN (CONT'D)

Look, Janae's story doesn't add up.
If Simon got caught fighting with
TJ, why wasn't TJ in detention?

NATE

It would at least be on his record.

BRONWYN

So if Janae's story is true, Gupta
would have a record of the
altercation with Simon and TJ. In
her office.

Bronwyn looks at Nate. She doesn't even need to say it.

NATE

So your parents are right. I am a
bad influence.

7

INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT 7

Cooper winds his way through couples grinding on the dance floor. ANGLE ON Vanessa getting sloppy with Jake. Cooper raises an eyebrow and continues to find TJ, who is checking his phone. He takes a deep breath. *What the f*** is he doing?*

COOPER

Welcome back. Good to see you.

TJ looks up from his phone, places it in his blazer pocket. Addy watches from the dance floor. TJ glares.

TJ

(harsh)

Is it? Haven't heard from you, or
anyone, in three weeks.

Cooper is taken aback, he's never seen TJ angry.

COOPER

I had a lot on my plate, you know.
Training, exams, being a suspect in
a high profile murder case...

TJ just gives Cooper a look, not sure if he's on his side or not... Cooper thinks fast. Takes out Nate's flask from his pocket.

COOPER (CONT'D)

Cheap whiskey. Want some?

TJ eyes the flask, raises an eyebrow.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

TJ

It's not poisoned is it?

(taking the flask)

Fuck it. I'll take my chances.

TJ looks around and takes a sip when the coast is clear.
Cooper nods to Addy when TJ isn't looking, *he's in*.

8 **INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - PRINCIPAL GUPTA'S OFFICE - NIGHT** 8

CLOSE ON the doorknob's lock. Nate slides a paperclip in and CLICK! The door opens. Bronwyn and Nate sneak inside, swallowed by the dark, using their phones as flashlights. Bronwyn moves to a filing cabinet, running her finger along the drawers, tries to open it, but --

BRONWYN

It's locked.

Nate, paperclip in hand, goes and picks the lock on a cabinet drawer then moves to another.

NATE

Look for TJ's while I work on this one.

Bronwyn thumbs through, frustrated.

BRONWYN

It's not here. I guess it makes sense considering this one folder is taking most of the space.

BRONWYN pulls out a THICK file.

BRONWYN (CONT'D)

"NATHANIEL MACAULEY." It's even bigger than I thought it'd be.

NATE

That's bait.

BRONWYN

Think there's anything in here that might explain how your mother rose from the dead?

NATE

How long have you been waiting to bring that up?

(CONTINUED)

BRONWYN

I dunno, Nate. Maybe since I saw her at your house? Not dead. Did you really think I was just going to let that go?

Nate sighs. He stops picking the lock and moves toward her.

NATE

What do you know about Joshua Trees?

BRONWYN

Excuse me?

NATE

The summer before she left we went hiking near the Mojave desert. She rattled on about Joshua Trees the whole time. Learned a whole bunch of useless shit. Like how every branch stops growing after it blossoms--

BRONWYN

Why are you telling me this?

NATE

Because in retrospect, they're a lot like her. Hard to say what parts of my mom are alive at any given time.
(painfully sincere)

I'm sorry I lied to you, okay? But I'm not sorry you didn't know the truth. Cause that would mean you'd know about her mental health issues, about her drug problems. How she abandoned me... It'd mean telling you a lot of shitty things instead of just one.

Bronwyn searches his eyes. She can tell he's hurting and it kills her. But they're interrupted by FOOTSTEPS in the hall. A FLASHLIGHT BEAM hits the window. Before Bronwyn can close the cabinet drawer, Nate grabs her and pulls her under the desk... The security guard enters, speaking into a walkie talkie --

SECURITY GUARD #1

Going on my fifteen, over.

The Guard walks to Gupta's fancy espresso machine and brews himself a cup. Off Nate and Bronwyn, huddled super close...

9 **INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT** 9

TJ and Cooper are drinking. Across the dance floor, using the crowd as cover, Addy watches as she dances with Janae. She sees TJ taking off his jacket and putting it over a chair.

TJ
Was kinda like Spring Break came early this year. Highly recommend. Well, maybe not for you. Wouldn't wanna give those scouts another thing to worry about. Will you remember me when you're famous?

Cooper shakes his head. Unlike TJ he's not used to a buzz, and it's kinda cute to see him loosen up a bit.

COOPER
I'm already famous, man.

TJ laughs. Cooper clocks the phone in the jacket pocket.

COOPER (CONT'D)
You want a picture with me? So you can prove you knew me when?

TJ laughs and takes out his phone.

TJ
Sad, but it probably will be my biggest claim to fame.

He puts in his password. Cooper clocks it. Yes. Cooper glances across the dance floor at Addy who looks around.

ADDY
Where the fuck is Nate?

10 **INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - PRINCIPAL GUPTA'S OFFICE - NIGHT** 10

Still huddled under the desk, Nate notices Bronwyn tapping her foot nervously, so he puts his hand on her knee... Where her hand is, too. He intertwines his fingers with hers, holding her strong. The Guard gets closer, throws away his empty cup, and then Nate remembers... *fuck*. They left the file cabinet drawer open. Is he going to catch them? Nate looks Bronwyn in the eyes.

The Guard moves over to the cabinet drawer suspiciously. He takes a few seconds that feel like a lifetime... And then closes it.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

The Guard spins around and makes his way out, closing the door behind him. Nate and Bronwyn are still looking at each other, their hearts racing. *Is this gonna happen?* Nate leans in, about to make a move -- But Bronwyn pulls away.

BRONWYN

You have a long, lonely ride to Mexico ahead of you. We better get moving.

Moment ruined. Nate nods, sheepishly. They both stand. Nate goes to the file cabinet and opens it. They look for both files. Bronwyn reads TJ's as Nate reads Simon's.

BRONWYN (CONT'D)

TJ Forrester. There's nothing here about a fight with Simon. I knew she was lying.

NATE

No, she wasn't.

Nate holds up Simon's detention slip.

NATE (CONT'D)

Simon's detention slip. For an altercation with TJ.

BRONWYN

So Janae was telling the truth? But why was Simon the only one who got detention?

Off Nate and Bronwyn wondering what to make of this...

11 **INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT** 11

A tipsy TJ leaves his phone on the table. Cooper eyes it... Should he go for it? And then...

JAKE

TJ? Really?

Jake is now next to Cooper, not happy. TJ immediately tenses up when he sees him... and moves to the side. But his phone's still on the table. Jake whispers to Cooper.

JAKE (CONT'D)

And don't think I didn't notice you and your murder crew disappear at the same time...

(CONTINUED)

COOPER

It's murder club. At least get the hashtag right, since your date started it?

JAKE

You really want to share a hashtag with them?

COOPER

Why do you care? Is this about Addy? If you're still mad maybe you should talk to her.

JAKE

It's not about her. It's about you. Your arm is a golden ticket, do you have any idea what I'd do for that kind of talent? I'd be a shitty friend if I stood by and watched you let that go to waste. For what? Them?

Jake puts his arm around him. Cooper looks at TJ's phone, lost in thought. Angle on ADDY, desperately wanting Cooper to grab it... But he doesn't. He's smiling at Jake, seemingly forgetting about the mission.

JAKE (CONT'D)

You're Cooper fucking Clay. Do you have any idea how lucky you are?

Now TJ approaches the table and grabs his phone. The opportunity's lost. Jake gives Cooper a pat on the shoulder and goes to Vanessa.

TJ

Low-key I can't just stay here and drink punch, man. Heard about some afterparties in Newport. You in?

Cooper looks from TJ to Jake. He's done.

COOPER

No. I'm good.

From across the gym the DJ cuts in --

DJ

Okay you beautiful people, grab your date or the person you wish was your date. It's time for a slow one.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (2)

11

As couples pull each other close, we find Addy, alone, watching TJ put his jacket on and hug Cooper goodbye. She looks at Janae: Is he leaving the dance? They have to do something...

12 INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT 12

About to leave the gym, TJ pulls out his phone to compose a text. But then, someone cuts him off. Addy. *What the...?*

ADDY

Hey... How's it going?

TJ

How's it going? I mean... You would know if you hadn't ghosted me.

ADDY

Technically it's not ghosting if you come back. If anything I'm a zombie.

TJ

Too bad I forgot my crossbow.

ADDY

Look. I was in a bad place. I just needed a little time to screw my head on straight. Can we talk?

TJ considers the offer for a second and then...

TJ

Let's go somewhere private.

Somewhere private is the last place Addy wants to be with TJ.

ADDY

What about a dance?

TJ

What about your ex? What about my ex?

ADDY

It's our last homecoming. Who cares what our shitty exes think.

TJ

Be honest with me. Do you really want this?

Addy's eyes flicker down towards the phone in his hand --

(CONTINUED)

ADDY

There is no one else I'd rather
dance with right now.

Addy takes his hand and leads him onto the dance floor --

13 **INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM-DANCE FLOOR - CONTINUOUS**

Right past Vanessa and Keely, watching from the side --

VANESSA

Can you even believe her?

KEELY

Haven't you been grinding all over
Jake tonight?

VANESSA

Speaking of unwelcome observations,
there's a little rumor going around
about your boyfriend and in my
opinion... the shoe fits.

KEELY

I don't know what you're talking
about.

VANESSA

Were you not questioned by the
police? They've been implying you're
really not his type.
(just in case)
Because he's gay.

KEELY

ACAB, V. And I read on TMZ that Addy
and Bronwyn were members of Simon's
sex cult. So whatever.

Vanessa shrugs. But when she's not looking, Keely's smile
fades at the realization that Cooper's rumor is spreading...

14 **INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - DANCE FLOOR - SAME** 14

Nate and Bronwyn arrive. They spot TJ and Addy dancing --

BRONWYN

This isn't going according to plan.

MAEVE (O.S.)

What plan?

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

Reveal Maeve with her arms crossed, concerned.

15 INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - DANCE FLOOR - SAME 15

Addy and TJ are slow dancing...

ADDY

I had a lot of time to think. About you. About that night...

As she speaks her hand trails down his chest. Lower and lower... She slips her hand into his pocket, her fingertips brushing against his phone. ANGLE on JANAE, watching her. Addy seems close...

TJ

And?

Addy holds the phone...

ADDY

And I think you... Might be the one I've been looking for.

Suddenly there's a TAP TAP on Addy's shoulder. Addy twists to find Jake. She lets go of the phone. Fuck.

JAKE

(clearly jealous)
Mind if I cut in?

ADDY

Jake. What are you doing?

Jake and TJ size each other up.

TJ

Her choice.

Addy is like a deer in headlights, frozen. But the fact that she is even considering it after what she told him, is enough of an answer for TJ. He shakes his head and leaves.

TJ (CONT'D)

Have fun.

Addy is going to protest, but Jake takes her hand. Addy's heart is racing, breathless. Jake smiles and pulls her body close... wrapping her up in his arms.

ADDY

What are we even doing right now?

(CONTINUED)

JAKE

Nothing we haven't done before.

His eyes unintentionally flicker up to her hair.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Also, this is a clear case for hair police.

ADDY

Am I arrested, Officer Riordan?

JAKE

It's growing on me. So I'm going to let you off with a warning. But just so you know, as a hair enforcement officer I could lose my badge.

A panicked Janae loses sight of TJ. What if he leaves? Then, she sees Addy dancing with Jake, *shit*. Does she have to do everything herself?! Then, she notices a red envelope in Keely's hand. Janae rushes toward her and SWIPES it out of her hands --

KEELY

What the--

Janae runs towards the stage. On JAKE and ADDY dancing.

JAKE

Addy, I know you're going through a lot. And I just realized that I'm more worried than angry. What's going on with you?

Addy looks into his eyes, tempted to trust him, but -- THE MUSIC STOPS. Up on STAGE, the microphone PEAKS AND CRACKLES as Janae snatches it from the stand. Everyone turns to look, including TJ who pauses in his exit. Janae clears her throat as jeers and boos come from the crowd. A spotlight hits her.

JAKE (CONT'D)

What the fuck is she doing?

JANAE

(raising the red envelope)
Listen up, sheeple! The moment you've all been waiting for! Time to announce your homecoming cis-royalty or whatever.

Janae rips open the envelope. CLOSE ON: Two names that mean nothing to her. Whatever. She doesn't care about anything but keeping TJ at that dance.

(CONTINUED)

JANAE (CONT'D)
Your Homecoming King and Queen
are... TJ...

Janae realizes that she doesn't know TJ's last name. But...

JANAE (CONT'D)
You know the one. TJ.
(points at him)
You, back there.

TJ doesn't move. Janae, has no choice. She looks at Addy next to Jake and goes for it:

JANAE (CONT'D)
And... um. Addy... Prentiss. Is it?
Whatever, she's famous, you all know
who I'm talking about.

The crowd gasps, all eyes turn to Addy, *AWKWARD*.

JANAE (CONT'D)
Come to the stage, guys. It's time
for your dance. Isn't that what
happens now? Come on TJ. Where are
you? Show yourself!

But neither TJ nor Addy moves, they know she's bullshitting and even if she weren't... no way are they getting up on that stage. They both stand frozen, glaring at her. Janae realizes her plan has failed. TJ still looks like he's about to leave, and she hasn't separated Addy from Jake. In fact, now Addy is grabbing Jake's arm, as perplexed as everyone in the room. Janae needs to try something else.

JANAE (CONT'D)
Yeah, I know what you're thinking.

KEELY
I really hope you don't.

JANAE
Who cares about this patriarchal
bullshit, and dancing and
celebrating a stupid football game,
when my best friend is *dead*. Because
someone murdered him. And the killer
is someone you know. Someone at this
dance, probably. Someone you danced
with maybe? Someone who should be
found and punished.

ANGLE ON Addy, locking eyes with Janae from across the gym.
This is her wake up call.

(CONTINUED)

She takes a step back from Jake and starts to look for TJ -- but when she turns toward the exit we see that TJ IS GONE. Janae continues.

JANAE (CONT'D)

Whoever you are, you're never going to get away with it. Because I will find you. And I will end you.

Murmurs from the crowd -- Janae locks eyes with Bronwyn --

JANAE (CONT'D)

Oh, and one more thing. The Bayview Four are innocent.

And off this messy and alarming mic drop --

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO16 INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT 16

Janae JUMPS OFF STAGE and cuts through the crowd, running out of the gym. RABBLE from the student body as they process what they've heard, some share replays on their phones. The music returns as Addy finds Bronwyn and Nate on the dance floor, using the cover of chaos to not draw attention to themselves.

ADDY

I lost TJ!

NATE

But you had no problem finding Jake.

ADDY

He found me. Never mind that, where the fuck were you?

BRONWYN

Doing some digging. Maybe you were right to be suspicious of TJ. He did get in a fight with Simon that day but strangely never got detention.

ADDY

Remember when I said you should believe women?

BRONWYN

You know this really isn't what that phrase refers to, right?

NATE

We still need his phone.

ADDY

I'll check outside, make sure he didn't leave.

(to Nate)

Check the bathroom?

(to Bronwyn)

Text us if you see him.

They all nod in agreement and go their separate ways... But when Bronwyn turns around, she finds an angry Maeve.

MAEVE

You ditched me for Murder Club?
Where was my invite?

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

BRONWYN

Keep your voice down. You're not in murder-- *mutual-exoneration* club.

MAEVE

Yeah, that's not rolling off anyone's tongue. And after everything I've done for you I should have season tickets. Tell me what's going on. You can't shut me out forever.

BRONWYN

Watch me try.

Bronwyn leaves.

17

EXT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - QUAD - SAME

17

Janae DRY HEAVES into a planter. We see Maeve approaching, concerned --

MAEVE

Great speech. You okay?

JANAE

I'm fine. Just gonna boot and rally. Seriously, go. I'm disgusting.

MAEVE

You can drop the modesty, after leukemia you're not exactly blowing my mind.

(she sits next to Janae)

Maybe I'm wrong but it always seemed like the only reason you ever came to these dances was to hang out with Simon and make fun of everyone else... and now he's gone.

A silence falls between them, but it's not awkward. Above them, a canopy of stars.

MAEVE (CONT'D)

Stars are dead too, ya know. Burned out thousands of years ago but their light still hits us... Like little ghosts.

Janae doesn't look up, she can't take her eyes off Maeve --

SIMON (PRE LAP)

If you like her just say something--

18

EXT. FAIR - NIGHT - FLASHBACK (FBN7)

18

Outside a photo booth, Simon and Janae wait for their photos. Maeve can be seen nearby ordering a hot dog, out of earshot.

SIMON

I haven't seen such an obvious pairing since Bert and Ernie shared a bed.

JANAE

You're evil.

SIMON

I've clearly established myself as chaotic neutral.

JANAE

Is that why you've been flirting with her all night?

SIMON

I wasn't flirting I was just, being a good listener, admiring her best features-- the ones you always point out.

JANAE

Whatever. Will you just stop pressuring me for like, five minutes?

SIMON

Sure. Fine. But why are you acting like you don't give a fuck? Is this triggering some kind of secret trauma? Help me help you.

JANAE

I really don't need a second therapist, Simon. I need a friend. And lately all you've been is About That with legs.

SIMON

(sincere)

A friend would tell you to seize the moment before it's gone forever.

(a beat)

And just so you know, if you don't make a move, I can't promise you I won't.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

Simon heads off in Maeve's direction leaving Janae... just as their photos SPIT OUT of the booth. Janae picks it up and we recognize THE PHOTO STRIP from Maeve's room (103).

19 EXT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - QUAD - NIGHT - PRESENT (N17) 19

Back to reality. Janae takes a deep breath, *here goes everything...*

JANAE

Maeve, I--

DING! A notification pops up on her phone: "I have proof the Bayview Four are guilty." Maeve peeks over her shoulder to read the message.

MAEVE

What's that?

JANAE

I got one of these before. But they disappear. Look--

Sure enough the message disappears and -- DING! A new one pops up: "Simon says: open locker #724" then vanishes.

MAEVE

Fuck. We should go.

JANAE

What? There is no "we," okay? I'm not about to walk you into an obvious trap. Bronwyn might not be a murderer but I know where I stand on her fuck-marry-kill list. Whoever wrote this has heard my speech. *They are here.* It could be dangerous.

MAEVE

So what are you going to do about it?

JANAE

I don't know...

Maeve takes this in, then heads toward the gym. Janae follows, not entirely convinced she'll stay out of trouble.

JANAE (CONT'D)

Maeve! Wait!

20

INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT 20

Janae follows Maeve through the packed dance floor... Until she loses her. What the hell? *How did she shake her?* She searches the crowd and runs right into Cooper and Keely hanging out with Vanessa and Jake.

JANAE

Did Maeve pass by here just now?

COOPER

No. You okay?

Janae doesn't respond, quickly resuming her search.

VANESSA

Did someone order an off her meds,
discount Billie Eilish?

Cooper looks at his phone, opens a message to Kris. He drunkenly starts typing: "I wish..." but then he deletes it. Keely clocks Vanessa studying him. Keely grabs his arm.

KEELY

Let's dance.

COOPER

I'm not really in the mood.

KEELY

(hushed)

Remember what you said? Gossip
spreads faster than fire. It's
happening.

(glances at Vanessa)

Let's put on a show.

Cooper takes a deep breath, nods. Keely kisses his cheek, Vanessa rolls her eyes. Keely drags Cooper through the sea of happy couples slow dancing. The stage lights hit Cooper's eyes. He closes them briefly and when the LIGHTS FLASH again we're in Cooper's head. Leading him onto the dance floor is KRIS, not Keely.

Kris spins around and takes a step forward, pressing his body to Cooper's, slowly dancing to the music. Cooper holds Kris tight, rests his head on his shoulder. A long blissful beat, then, Kris leans into Cooper's ear and whispers --

KEELY (V.O.)

See? This isn't so bad is it?

The spell is broken. REVEAL Keely as she pulls back smiling at Cooper. He takes a moment, his euphoria fading...

(CONTINUED)

COOPER

I don't think I can do this anymore.

Keely searches his eyes, *seriously*? And then Cooper leaves her alone on the dance floor.

21 INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - DANCE FLOOR - SAME 21

Bronwyn and Nate find each other behind an LED cloud sculpture, making sure to not be seen together.

BRONWYN

This is not how I pictured my senior Homecoming.

NATE

Same. Although, to be fair, I never pictured mine at all.

BRONWYN

I don't understand why you're just... giving up.

NATE

You didn't see Wheeler coming after me in the interrogation... She's put a price on my head.

BRONWYN

Because you didn't give me away? With the laptop?

They look at each other. He plays it down. Starts to fidget with the tie *again*.

NATE

My own mom thinks I'm guilty, Rojas. What chance will I have with a jury.

Bronwyn wants to say something, anything, to ease his pain. But the words don't come.

NATE (CONT'D)

Hey. Maybe Addy is right and we can solve this thing before I take off. Just not holding my breath.

BRONWYN

If you don't actually believe in this crazy plan why are you even here, Nate?

Nate looks at Bronwyn in the eyes. Isn't the answer obvious?

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

NATE

Maybe I just wanted to see you
dance.

This is a moment. Nate fears he'll be left hanging again, goes back to his tie. But she stops him. Puts her hand over his, but she doesn't fix it. She takes off the damn tie in a swift move. They look at each other. This is *really* a moment. And then, an agitated JANAE shows up, spoiling it.

JANAE

Please tell me you've seen Maeve?

OFF Nate and Bronwyn's surprise --

22 **EXT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - NIGHT**

22

Addy searches the parking lot, finds TJ's Jeep but he's not in it. She sighs, frustrated, then she looks up... And sees a SHADOWY FIGURE on the school rooftop, smoking a joint. That's TJ. *Gotcha.*

23 **INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - DANCE FLOOR - SAME**

23

BRONWYN is questioning JANAE.

BRONWYN

She went where?

NATE

Shit.

NATE is looking at his phone. There's a text from Addy: "ROOFTOP. COME. NOW." Bronwyn doesn't even look: she's too concerned seeing Janae so freaked out.

BRONWYN

Janae, where's my sister!?

24 **INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - GIRL'S LOCKER ROOM - SAME**

24

A dark, empty locker room. Maeve checks the locker numbers and finds what she's looking for. She stops. And then --

A strange noise in the dark. Or is it all in her imagination? Maeve takes a deep breath, tries to calm herself. She focuses on the locker in front of her. She reaches for the door...

25

INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - ATRIUM/ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

25

Cooper gets Addy's message, but before he can read it, he sees Keely pick up her things and head for the exit. He goes after her...

COOPER

Keely. Keely wait!

Cooper reaches her. She looks him in the eyes.

KEELY

We had a plan.

COOPER

We don't need to be dating to go to college together. I'll talk to your parents. I'll be there if Zach shows up... I won't let him come close to you again. Ever. I promise. As your friend. Thing is, I needed you to be my girlfriend but you don't really need me to be your boyfriend.

Keely takes a second before looking at him.

KEELY

So why am I crying?

COOPER

I don't know.

KEELY

I think I love you.

Cooper is taken aback. Shakes his head.

COOPER

Keels, it wasn't real. We were playing house.

KEELY

Coop... Do you know what it is to open yourself up to someone completely? To be naked in front of someone, physically and emotionally? That's what I had with Zach, and when he started using all of that against me, I thought I may never be able to get close to anyone ever again.

(a beat)

Enter you. You didn't want that. You didn't ask me to do anything.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KEELY (CONT'D)

With you, I felt safe. And I guess... I fell in love.

COOPER

You don't love me. You love the idea of us.

KEELY

What's the difference?

Keely takes a deep breath.

KEELY (CONT'D)

I was in love. Or I wouldn't have... done the things I've done.

COOPER

What do you mean?

KEELY

Before school started, at Jake's party, Simon came to me. He somehow figured out you're gay and threatened to out you on About That... If I didn't give him something juicier in exchange.

COOPER

And you did?

KEELY

I saw Addy and TJ at the beach, together. And I told him. About how TJ has always been obsessed with Addy, and how they left the party together and disappeared into the dunes. It was obvious what was going to happen.

COOPER

(worried)

He's always been obsessed with her? Really?

KEELY

Why does that matter? Addy's been through hell because of me. I'm a horrible friend. All because I wasn't ready to say goodbye to my stupid fake boyfriend. How pathetic is that?

Keely rips off her corsage and throws it on the floor at Cooper's feet. She leaves, tears streaming down her face.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (2)

25

As soon as she's gone, Cooper grabs his phone and reads Addy's text: "Rooftop. Come. Now." Cooper sprints down the hall...

26 **EXT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - ROOFTOP - NIGHT**

26

Addy, high heels in hand, arrives on the roof, unseen by TJ. He looks out at the ocean in the distance while smoking a joint. Addy checks her phone. No replies. Maybe she should go back...

TJ

You really shouldn't be up here alone. This is where the bad kids hang out.

TJ takes a hit, the ember glowing across his face. Addy eyes the door, she could leave right now and call the whole thing off. Instead she looks back at TJ with resolve --

ADDY

Please don't be mad, Jake caught me off guard.

TJ

Fuck you, Addy.

ADDY

I guess I deserve that...

TJ

And what was that king and queen shit Janae pulled? Was that supposed to be funny?

ADDY

I honestly have no idea what she was thinking. I swear.

(pivoting)

Can I have a hit?

TJ considers this, then nods. She marches toward the ledge. TJ hands her the joint and Addy takes a hit. She peers over the edge of the rooftop, realizing it would be a long fall to the pavement below... And then she clocks TJ's phone, still in his jacket pocket.

ADDY (CONT'D)

You were right, you know? What you said at the beach. Jake doesn't deserve me.

(CONTINUED)

TJ

I thought you blocked that whole night out as soon as Jake got back.

ADDY

(getting close)

I remember everything. For a while I was trying to forget... But I can't.

They are really close now. TJ has an impenetrable look on his face. Is he about to kiss her, or push her to her death? Addy reaches for the phone...

ADDY (CONT'D)

I remember every second...

TJ

You're really gonna act like you didn't just blow me off, again, for Jake? You can't just pout your lips and make it better this time.

Addy takes the phone and puts it behind her back.

ADDY

I'm sorry if this is too much. Maybe let's sleep on it?

Addy motions to leave, but TJ blocks her exit, towering menacingly over her.

TJ

Am I just a joke to you? You know, we used to laugh at those novellas but now I know how the scorned lover felt when he came back to throw himself and his *amor* off that seaside cliff.

Addy's heart races, but she tries to play it cool.

ADDY

I shouldn't have come up here. I'll leave you alone now...

But he doesn't move. When she tries to walk past him, he grabs her arm... And Addy drops the phone.

TJ

What the fuck?

Addy tries to reach for it. But TJ doesn't let go...

(CONTINUED)

TJ (CONT'D)

Why did you steal my phone, Addy? Is this what you were really after all night? Is this why Janae... You're going to explain it to me... Now.

He lets go of Addy, but is still blocking her exit, towering over her. If he pushes her now, she will fall to a certain death. But then --

COOPER (O.S.)

ADDY!

Cooper appears at the door.

COOPER (CONT'D)

Everything okay?

Addy picks up the phone and starts running.

ADDY

RUN!

She and Cooper dart toward the door and rush inside, TJ hot on their tail. They slam the door, locking TJ on the roof.

TJ

Addy! Addy, open the fucking door!

Off TJ, pounding his fist on the door, furious.

27

INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAYS - SAME

27

Bronwyn and Nate hurry down the hall. Bronwyn's heels CLACK against the tile. She reaches down and pulls them off. Janae is close behind them.

They reach the locker they were looking for.

NATE

(checking the locker)

Annnnd it's locked.

JANAE

Shit. It actually might've been 247... or maybe 427? I don't...

BRONWYN

How could you forget, Janae, it's three fucking numbers!?

JANAE

I am drunk! Is that a crime?

(CONTINUED)

BRONWYN

Literally yes! Think! My sister is out there, she could be in danger!

JANAE

You think I don't know? You think I don't care?

BRONWYN

Why would you?

And then... Janae goes silent. A tear runs down her cheek.

JANAE

Because I--

(stops herself)

--Care about her. I do.

A moment. Bronwyn and Nate understand. Wow. And for the first time, Bronwyn believes Janae. She takes a step back.

BRONWYN

It's actually my fault. Maeve takes every opportunity to prove herself because I always treat her like my fragile kid sister.

Janae offers her flask, an olive branch of sorts.

BRONWYN (CONT'D)

What's this?

JANAE

Tequila. A coping mechanism.

NATE

Oh, I don't think Bronwyn--

Bronwyn takes the flask and a big sip.

NATE (CONT'D)

--Even needs a chaser.

BRONWYN

Thank you. Let's split up.

JANAE

You wanna split up? Don't you watch horror movies?

NATE

No she doesn't. It's her biggest flaw actually.

(CONTINUED)

BRONWYN

I just wanna find Maeve...

Janae takes a deep breath and the last sip from the flask.
OFF her face--

28 **INT. JAKE'S BEACH HOUSE - PARTY - HALLWAY-FLASHBACK(FBN10)** 28

Janae passes a door, slightly ajar.

JANAE

Maeve? They told me you were--

A faint GIGGLE from inside. Janae peeks in to investigate, quietly pushing it open to find -- Maeve making out with Simon. Maeve doesn't see her, but Simon does. They lock eyes for a few seconds and then Janae leaves, angry and hurt.

29 **EXT. JAKE'S BEACH HOUSE - PARTY - NIGHT - FLASHBACK** 29

She finds Nate, sitting with SASHA and MALLORY by the pool, and we realize this flashback connects the dots from 104 --

JANAE

Hey Nate?

Nate moves his lips to speak, but we hear Bronwyn's voice.

BRONWYN (PRE LAP)

What if it's a gym locker?

30 **INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAYS - NIGHT - PRESENT (N17)** 30

Back to reality -- Janae snaps out of it.

JANAE

What?

BRONWYN

What if the number is right... But
it's a gym locker.

31 **INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - GIRL'S LOCKER ROOM - MOMENTS LATER**

NATE, BRONWYN and JANAE arrive at the locker room -- they go straight for locker #724. Its door is ajar.

JANAE

Great, so I had the number right.
But still no sign of Maeve.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

Bronwyn opens the locker carefully... It seems like a normal gym locker, just some gym clothes in it.

NATE

So the creepy stalker sent us here
to check out some pink leggings?

Bronwyn rummages through them and then stops cold while checking some gym shorts.

NATE (CONT'D)

What is it?

Bronwyn shows them. The name on the tag reads, "PRENTISS".

BRONWYN

This is Addy's locker.

DING! Bronwyn gets a text. It's Maeve: "North stairwell. Come alone." Bronwyn, Nate, and Janae exchange a look--

HARD CUT TO:

32

INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - STAIRWELL - MOMENTS LATER

32

BAM! The door busts open and Nate, Bronwyn, and Janae rush into the stairwell where they find Maeve. Alone. Bronwyn looks at her with dread.

BRONWYN

Maeve! Are you okay?

MAEVE

I found something.

BRONWYN

In Addy's locker?

Maeve nods. She holds out her hand, revealing the epi-pen with Simon's name on it...

MAEVE

Remember the epi-pen that was
missing from Simon's bag the day he
died?

Everybody looks shocked. Suddenly, the door to the stairwell opens, startling them all. ADDY and COOPER run in, out of breath but exhilarated.

ADDY

Good news! We got TJ's phone.

(CONTINUED)

MAEVE

Bad news. You're going to jail.

Addy looks at everyone, perplexed. What?

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

33

INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - STAIRWELL - NIGHT

33

ADDY, COOPER, NATE, JANAЕ, BRONWYN and MAЕVE are in the stairwell. All eyes are on ADDY.

ADDY

I have no idea what that was doing in my locker. I didn't take it. I-- Whoever sent you those messages put it in there. Somebody who wants to frame me... TJ! But now we have his phone, and we can check it--

Silence speaks louder than words. Nobody knows what to say, or think. They eye Addy suspiciously.

BRONWYN

Maeve. Could you go somewhere safe, look through TJ'S apps and try to figure out where he was last night?

A (pleasantly) surprised Maeve nods.

BRONWYN (CONT'D)

Janae, can you go with her and make sure she's ok?

Now Janae's pleasantly surprised. Maeve is not so happy: She doesn't need a babysitter. Bronwyn clocks her.

BRONWYN (CONT'D)

There's still a killer out there.

Maeve nods with alacrity. She exits with Janae. Nate gives Bronwyn a look that says he's proud of her.

BRONWYN (CONT'D)

I just didn't want them around while we talk about destroying evidence.

COOPER

Say that again?

BRONWYN

Do you want to take it to the police? Explain how we got it?

NATE

They wouldn't believe Addy. They wouldn't believe any of us.

(CONTINUED)

ADDY

But... You guys believe me?

BRONWYN

I do. This is so clearly a set-up.
We all know you're smarter than to
leave evidence in your locker. The
peanut oil notwithstanding.

Cooper and Nate nod in agreement. Addy smiles, trying to
fight tears.

BRONWYN (CONT'D)

If we destroy this thing, we're
committing a crime together. And
there's no turning back.

(looks at each of them)

And if one of us tells, the others
are fucked. Are you ready for that?

COOPER

I don't know...

BRONWYN

I for one don't think anyone in this
room killed Simon.

ADDY

Me neither.

NATE

Same.

COOPER

(resigned)

Motherfuckers... How would we even
do this? It's not like we can flush
an epi-pen down the toilet.

They all consider the question until Addy breaks the silence.

ADDY

I have an idea.

The art room is littered with student projects and shelves of
pottery. Murder Club stands facing a large, front-loading
kiln. Addy works the controls.

ADDY

And my mom said art classes were a
waste of time.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

ADDY (CONT'D)

What are you ever going to do with that Addy? Well, mother...

COOPER

You know for innocent people we are scary good at committing crimes.

BRONWYN

Anyone having second thoughts?

They all look at each other, no objections. Nate shrugs --

NATE

What's one more felony between friends?

Addy looks to Bronwyn like, you ready? Bronwyn nods. Addy ignites the kiln and their faces glow red from the light of the heating element. Then, Bronwyn throws the pen inside. Addy shuts the door, and we are CLOSE on the epi-pen as the plastic under Simon's name starts to BOIL.

35

INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - LIBRARY - NIGHT

35

The light from TJ's cell phone GLOWS on Maeve and Janae's faces as Bronwyn, Nate, Addy and Cooper arrive.

BRONWYN

Good news. Epi-pen is taken care of.

MAEVE

Bad news. You were wrong about TJ.

ADDY

I really don't love this routine.

MAEVE

We combed through the data and the entire time TJ was suspended he was either surfing, picking up In-n-Out, or at home YouTubing Doomsday-prepper videos. He wasn't stalking Addy at the movie theater, and he was miles away from Laguna when you were photographed at the beach house.

Coming from the high of destroying the epi-pen together, this is a new low for Murder club. *Fuck.*

COOPER

So the killer is still out there.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

Janae takes in the info. So her theory was wrong. They're back to square one.

JANAE

Great. That went nowhere. And I made myself a target tonight... For nothing.

MAEVE

Not for nothing. For Simon.

Janae attempts a sad smile. CLOSE on her...

SIMON (O.S.)

Shit, you're still alive?

36 **INT. JANAЕ'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK (FBN13)** 36

Simon enters Janae's bedroom, holding a small box. Janae holds up her arm, revealing a medical bracelet.

JANAE

The rumors of my death have been greatly exaggerated.

SIMON

So what am I suppose to do with this?

He opens the box. It's a cake that reads RIP JANAЕ with a little ghost emoji on it.

JANAE

Aww, funeral cake. You shouldn't have.

He sets the cake down and lays beside her, taking on a more serious tone --

SIMON

Remember that pact Houdini made with his wife? That whoever died first would make contact with the other from beyond the grave.

JANAE

Yeah. But nothing ever came. Ghosts probably have more important things to do.

SIMON

It got me thinking of all the things I might never get to say to you. Some things I maybe, sorta regret.

(CONTINUED)

JANAE

Oh, I get it. This is your way of apologizing.

SIMON

Not an apology. More of an update. I know I've been distant lately so I decided I'm going to back off from Maeve.

(lying)

I've got enough on my plate with AP classes and college applications. She's just a distraction.

JANAE

What happened wasn't about Maeve. And I think you know that.

SIMON

Ughhhh. You're going to make me say it aren't you?

(sincere, loving)

I was a bad friend and I'm sorry. You should only ever do what you're comfortable with and I want you to know that no matter what I will always, and forever, be your date to Homecoming.

Janae takes his hand and squeezes it.

JANAE

Love you, Simon.

SIMON

(a warm smile)

Same.

It's the warmest and most loving we've ever seen Simon, and the last time we'll ever see him this way...

37 **INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - LIBRARY - NIGHT - PRESENT (N17)** 37

Back in the real world, tears are welling in Janae's eyes. She runs out of the room, overwhelmed. Maeve clocks her.

38 **EXT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - QUAD - NIGHT**

38

Janae finally stops running. She's out of breath, her face wet with tears. She stares up at the canopy of stars as she catches her breath, feeling very small and very sad. There are FOOTSTEPS behind her, but she already knows it's Maeve.

(CONTINUED)

JANAE

Why do you keep showing up for me?
Why can't you leave me alone?

MAEVE

I'm sorry. I just... I'll go.

But before she leaves, Janae speaks.

JANAE

I detest most people. Pretty much everyone. I'm really good at it. But I don't detest you. I think you're interesting, and you make me smile, and you're pretty much the bravest person I know. It's not even annoying that you always show up when I want to be alone. But I need you to stop. Because every time you show up I wish we were...

(wiping away a tear)

I like you, Maeve. A lot. So please, I'd really appreciate it if you'd just stay away from me.

Janae turns to leave but Maeve grabs her arm and spins her back, drawing her into a KISS! A long pause, as they look into each others' eyes. Unsure what happens next.

JANAE (CONT'D)

Why... Why did you do that?

MAEVE

Because. I wanted to.

Janae leans in and kisses her again, only this time they don't stop...

We cut in on the Bayview Four, still trying to figure out what to do next.

BRONWYN

Could someone really have come into the room and put the peanut oil in his cup without being seen in what... Three seconds?

ADDY

I still can't believe how useless I was. I just froze. I barely remember any of it. Except for Simon's face.

(CONTINUED)

COOPER

I froze too. When Nate told me to go to the nurse's office. But it was because for a second I thought... What if I let him die?

A moment. They all look at each other. This feels big.

COOPER (CONT'D)

Because I knew he knew my secret.

BRONWYN

I knew too.

NATE

Same.

ADDY

He told me he would never post it.

For the first time, they are being totally honest with each other. They trust each other.

COOPER

So we had the motive, and we had the chance. Nobody else did.

BRONWYN

Except for Ms. Avery.

NATE

What's her motive? Simon didn't have anything on her.

COOPER

We don't know that... What if Simon didn't post all the secrets he knew? What if sometimes he would trade for better gossip?

ADDY

How would you know that?

COOPER

I just found out that Keely tried to keep Simon from posting my secret in exchange for something better.

BRONWYN

Do you mean one of our secrets?

Cooper looks at Addy. His silence says it all.

(CONTINUED)

ADDY

So Keely told him about me and TJ.
To protect you.

COOPER

I'm sorry, Addy.

BRONWYN

Maybe he blackmailed other people?

FLASH. Their heads jolt toward the door just in time to see
SOMEONE dart down the hall, running from them --

COOPER

Was that a--

NATE

Camera flash--

ADDY

Come on!

The gang leaps into action, chasing after the mystery
photographer --

40 **INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - ANOTHER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS** 40

The Bayview Four come skidding around a corner in a shot that
pays homage to *The Breakfast Club*. A door to the stairwell
SLAMS SHUT. They give chase, Cooper darting ahead.

41 **INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - FOYER - CONTINUOUS** 41

Sprinting out of the stairwell Cooper spots VANESSA. He
reaches out and grabs her wrist.

COOPER

What the fuck, Vanessa?

VANESSA

Get off of me.

BRONWYN

Looks like we found our stalker.

ADDY

Were you following me last night!?

VANESSA

What? Oh I get it. The four of you
have convinced each other you're
innocent so naturally you've
invented a villain to trauma-bond
over. That is so deeply pathetic.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

VANESSA (CONT'D)

But I'm flattered that you think
it's me. Oh, and your cute little
murder club reunion in the library--
(chef's kiss)
Guaranteed to do numbers. I'll be
sure to tag you.

ADDY

That's it. I have had enough of your
shit.

Addy SLAPS Vanessa's phone to the ground, surprising
everyone, as it SMASHES. Vanessa glares at her --

VANESSA

You little bitch. You're lucky I
have Apple Care.

Vanessa picks up her phone and struts off into the gym. They
all follow her.

ADDY

Wait. Could Vanessa be like, the big
bad?

BRONWYN

She's definitely moved up on my
suspect list.

The gang reaches the gym...

42

INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT 42

And when they reach the dance floor, they can see everybody
has stopped dancing and partying... Because they are staring
at them, phones in hand. That pic on Vanessa's Instagram has
traveled *fast*. The four of them freeze.

NATE

Maybe we should go.

ADDY

Screw that! I'm not giving this win
to fucking *Vanessa* of all people. If
they want to stare let's give them
something to stare at. This is our
Homecoming too.

Cooper clocks Vanessa across the dance floor as she talks to
Jake. Jake looks up from the image on his phone. He spots
Cooper with Murder Club and shakes his head disapprovingly.
It feels very much like an *I told you so*.

(CONTINUED)

COOPER

Addy's right.

BRONWYN

Seriously?

COOPER

It's like my tee-ball coach used to say, "Sometimes you gotta grab life by the horns and make the devil suck your dick."

ADDY

I'm assuming he got fired?

COOPER

Oh, definitely.

Addy takes Cooper's hand and they walk out to the dance floor. Nate's senses Bronwyn's reluctance, offers his hand.

NATE

I mean, your parents are going to see the picture anyway.

BRONWYN

Nathaniel Macauley, are you asking me to dance with you?

Their eyes meet. They want to so bad and it's killing them.

NATE

Well Miss Rojas, whaddya say?

BRONWYN

Fuck it.

Bronwyn grabs Nate's hand and the two meet up with Addy and Cooper. Together they form a chain as they cut through the crowd. The mass of people part for them, gawking at the audacity, snapping photos and videos. Dozens of notifications POP UP from their phones like; "OMG did you see what Vanessa posted," "Bayview Four off on another murder spree," "Come to the dance floor quick," and "#MurderClub"

A rousing triumphant song (like "SECRETS" by Faouzia) swells as they reach the center of the dance floor and our gang, true to their word, dance their asses off. Bouncing around, swinging their hips -- this isn't choreographed by any means, just an absolute surrender to the moment. A celebration of their bond beneath the stage lights. While all around them their classmates pull out their phones and snap pictures.

43

INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT 43

We find TJ as he spots Addy in the crowd and makes his way over to her. Addy clocks him and she cuts him off by the entrance, away from her dancing friends.

ADDY

TJ... I'm so sorry.

(she hands him the phone)

I owe you a huge apology. I thought you were... stalking me. Which made me think you might have killed Simon--

TJ

Are you insane?

ADDY

Maybe? Something is definitely wrong with me because I knew you were in love with me, and I played with your feelings. The thing is, I never took you seriously because I didn't think I deserved it. You're a great guy, TJ--

TJ

You're doing it again.

ADDY

I'm sorry. You deserve better.

TJ

I really loved you. I did everything for you...

ADDY

Wait. What do you mean by that?

(a beat)

You told me you did things you weren't proud of. TJ... Did Simon come to you? Did you trade someone else's secret to keep ours safe? Is that why you fought with him that day, because he was going to post it anyway?

TJ

Addy--

ADDY

Who was it? Whose secret did you give Simon?

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

TJ's eyes flicker and Addy follows his gaze to the other end of the room. Her jaw drops. It's MS. AVERY, surreptitiously making a phone call by the bleachers.

ADDY (CONT'D)

Ms. Avery!?

TJ

Are you happy? You got what you wanted, now leave me alone. I really need a break from you.

Addy lets him go. She can't stop staring at the teacher --

44

INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT 44

Nearby, Cooper, Nate and Bronwyn are dancing. But Bronwyn stops. Her smile fades as she watches Nate. She goes to him. She says his name like it was made for her mouth.

BRONWYN

Nate. We are going to get who did this. We are going to figure this out. You don't have to leave.

NATE

For a debate team captain, I'm not sold, Rojas.

BRONWYN

Ok.

(a beat)

I don't want this to be the last time we dance. And I know it's not fair of me to ask, but if I don't I'll regret it for the rest of my life. Will you stay. For me?

Nate looks into her eyes and the entire world slips away, like that's all he's ever wanted to hear his whole life. He leans in and presses his lips to hers. The music crescendos right at that moment, as if the entire fucking universe is conspiring to make this an EPIC FIRST KISS. We stay on them as long as possible until finally --

ANGLE ON Cooper, not dancing anymore. He sees them kissing. His smile doesn't quite reach his eyes -- he misses Kris.

Nate and Bronwyn are still kissing, when suddenly the LIGHTS COME UP and THE MUSIC STOPS. Commotion from the crowd as DETECTIVE WHEELER and TWO POLICE OFFICERS walk up to Nate.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

BRONWYN (CONT'D)
Detective?

DETECTIVE WHEELER
Nate Macauley. You're under arrest
for the murder of Simon Kelleher.

The crowd erupts in chaos, Wheeler slaps handcuffs on Nate.

BRONWYN
No... No, you're making a mistake!

Wheeler ignores her, grabs Nate, and perp-walks him outside --

45 **EXT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS**

45

And onto the red carpet. MEDIA is all around them -- tipped off for the big arrest -- swarming and FLASHING THEIR CAMERAS. Wheeler walks Nate to the cop car.

ANGLE ON a POLICE OFFICER near Nate's motorcycle, trunk open, holding a ziplock bag full of EPI-PENS, labeled EVIDENCE.

The whole dance has run outside. Bronwyn and Cooper push their way to the front. Addy catches up just in time to see Nate stuffed into the back seat. And off Bronwyn, Cooper, and Addy, standing there -- front and center to a nightmarish Homecoming tableau -- feeling helpless and completely fucked, we --

SMASH TO BLACK.

END OF EPISODE